

### BEAUTIFYING CITY PARKS

THE Rittenhouse Square Improvement Association is making satisfactory progress in its work of transforming one of the commonplace city parks into a thing of beauty which will be a joy long after its projectors have passed to their final reward. A general plan has been outlined by members of the association, comprising residents of the neighborhood, which will cost in the aggregate about \$30,000. This money has, or will be, raised by private subscription, and the enterprise is entirely a public-spirited one that will entail no drain on the city treasury. The plans provide for new paths, bushes and trees, together with a balustrade surrounding the central portion, which will be artistically arranged in the form of a plaza. In the centre of the square is to be a beautiful fountain, with a pool coping of limestone. From this children may float small boats, as is done in the pools of the Paris Monceau of Paris, on the lines of which the new Rittenhouse Square is being modeled.

The improvements in this section are being made in harmony with the character of the neighborhood, but there is no good reason why public-spirited citizens may not do the same thing, possibly on another scale, in other parts of the city. The municipality, of course, is doing its share when it furnishes the large open plot of ground for the park and when it plants trees and makes paths and furnishes the ordinary conveniences. But why would it not be a good idea for wealthy Philadelphians to spend their money in making these places more beautiful? The public spirit exists among our people to a wonderful extent, and there is no doubt that many of them would be willing to contribute to such a purpose if they were convinced that it was in the public welfare. The necessities of municipal life we have before us always, but there are other things that contribute to the joy of living, and among them are the beauties of art and nature.

The improvements at Rittenhouse Square are a good thing, not only for that section of the city, but also for the incentive they should give to wealthy philanthropists to go and do likewise in other parts of Philadelphia.